



# Tapuitema

...ina ia manino le folauaga.

Official American Samoa Government Weekly Newsletter



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## Governor's Christmas 2007 Message "Good Tidings of Great Joy"

*As we gather with family and friends to celebrate Christmas, let us remember the birth of Our Savior Jesus Christ that brought "good tidings of great joy" and instilled in all of us His message of love, peace, and goodwill.*

*Let us also remember to give thanks for the blessings of the past year and to live honorably during this season of giving and receiving, as well as every day next year. To our church and traditional leaders, heads of families, parents, grandparents, and our beloved children, I pray for faith, joy and renewed strength.*

*To all the sons and daughters of American Samoa proudly serving in uniform, we express our deepest gratitude and send our personal best wishes for a happy holiday season and a safe return home. You are forever in our hearts and prayers. Mary, Lieutenant Governor Ipulasi, Mrs. Elisapeta Sunia and all of our children join me in wishing you and your family a blessed Christmas and a promising New Year filled with happiness, prosperity, and good health.*

*Ia manuia le Kerisimasi ma le Tausaga Fou 2008.  
Soifua mai ia manuia,*

TOGIOLA T.A. TULAFONO



# HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!



## Gov. Togiola: 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 442<sup>d</sup> Infantry receives alert order

(UTULEI) - Governor Togiola Tulafono has received news of an alert order from the Department of the Army for possible mobilization of the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 442<sup>d</sup> Infantry --which includes Bravo and Charlie Companies in American Samoa-- in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Governor Togiola said the alert order, released on December 21, 2007, is a document that informs commanders, leaders and soldiers of a possible mobilization of the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 442<sup>d</sup> Infantry subordinate units under its command, including the local Bravo and Charlie Companies, Delta Company on Oahu, Headquarters Company on Oahu and Hilo, and Echo Company in Guam and Saipan.

"We have received this information and it is important that we all understand it to mean, 'possible mobilization,' or 'the potential for deployment,' and it does not mean that the battalion will be deployed for certain," said Governor Togiola. "It only means that they may be sent on assignment to Kuwait or Iraq and therefore they must increase the level of their training in anticipation that they may be called up for duty. It is our prayer that this news does not get in the way of the festive spirit of the holidays for all of our families. Let's continue to enjoy the holidays, and each other, during this very special time of the year."

## HISTORICAL NOTES

By: Stan Sorensen, Historian, Office of the Governor

**On December 21, 1944**, the U.S. Naval Station Tutuila's redeployment program (i.e., reduction of facilities and personnel) was completed.

**On December 23, 1862**, Elders Kimo Pelio and Samuel Manoa of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints left Hawaii to establish an LDS mission in Samoa.

**On December 23, 1879**, German warships saluted Malietoa Talavou and the new Samoan flag, which was red with a white cross and a white star in the upper left quadrant.

**On December 24, 1914**, hundreds of drunken New Zealand soldiers "rampaged through Apia, plundering the German stores and stealing anything that looked as though it might be drinkable. (In their haste, they even took bottles of vinegar). Thereafter about forty drunk soldiers went to the government house in Vailima (formerly Robert Louis Stevenson's residence) and shouted to the Administrator [Lieutenant Colonel Robert Logan] that he should go home to New Zealand and look after his sheep. The commander of the military police could go too, they added. If he did not quickly go back to hunting rabbits again, they threatened, they would beat him up one day."

**On December 24, 1919**, Aifili Paulo Lauvao, who subsequently, in his long public career, became known as A.P. Lutali, and was a Sergeant in the First Samoan Battalion, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, a founder of Samoa High School, Speaker of the House of Representatives, President of the Senate, Delegate to the U.S. Congress, and second elected Governor of American Samoa, was born on the island of Aunu'u.

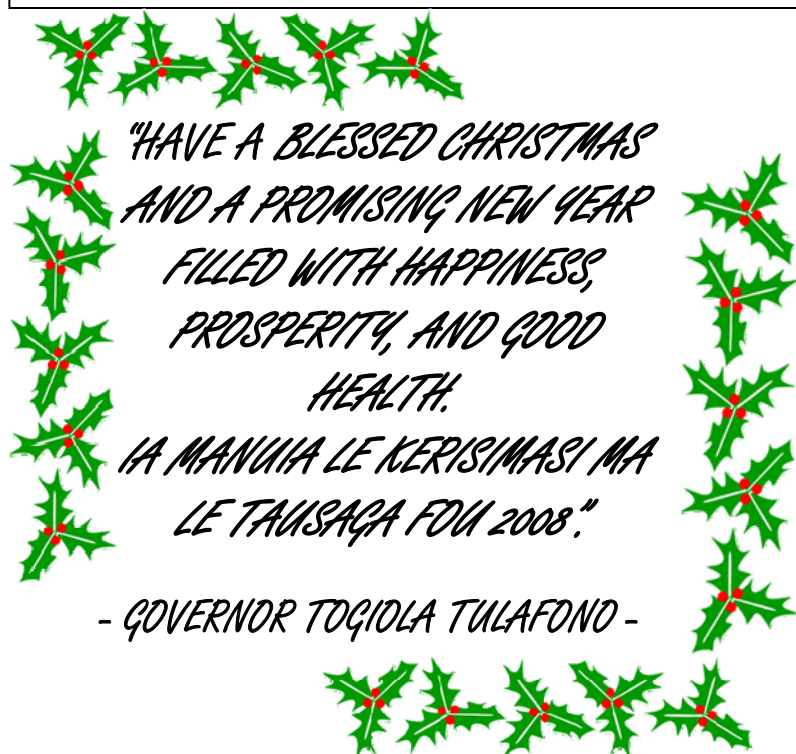
**On December 24, 1941**, the 2nd Marine Brigade was activated at Camp Elliott, San Diego, California for service in Samoa.

**On December 24, 1942**, the 3rd Marine Raider Battalion departed 'Upolu, after participating in "one of the 'great beer busts' of the Pacific War" aboard the Liberty Ship *Oliver Wendell Holmes*, en route to Tutuila. The ship's captain had told Major Michael S. Currin, the battalion's operations officer, "that, before his ship could sail, the remainder of the beer must be unloaded." Much of the Rainier beer was consumed in the process of unloading.

**On December 26, 1942**, 15 pilots from MAG-13 (Marine Air Group 13) were transferred from Tutuila to Guadalcanal, "leaving behind only 26 pilots. Further calls from Guadalcanal nearly emptied the Samoa bases."

**On December 28, 1898**, in a memorandum to Secretary of the Navy John Davis Long, R.B. Bradford, Chief of the Navy's Bureau of Equipment, recommended that the United States obtain control of Tutuila and Manu'a.

**On December 28, 1929**, *Mau* leader Tupua Tamasese Lealofi III was assassinated in Apia by a New Zealand Army sniper during a peaceful *Mau* demonstration. Other demonstrators were wounded, including Mata'afa Faumuina Fiaame Mulinu'u I and Tuimaleali'ifano Siu. Tamasese issued this deathbed statement to the *Mau*: "My blood has been spilt for Samoa. I am proud to give it. Do not dream of avenging it, as it was spilt in maintaining peace. If I die, peace must be maintained at any price." (This day became known as "Black Saturday").





## **Governor Togiola dedicates new Nu'uuli Vo-Tech High School shop building**



**(UTULEI)** – Governor Togiola Tulafono today officially dedicated the new shop building at Nu'uuli Vocational Technical High School, the second phase of the \$1.7 million project at the school in Tafuna.

In a brief ceremony this afternoon, Governor Togiola expressed his gratitude to Director of Education – Dr. Claire Poumele and the Department of Education for the successful completion of the two structure project that began in July 2006. Governor Togiola said the credit is shared by many.

“Often during these ceremonies, expressions of gratitude and praise go to this administration and our government, but it’s important to say that these efforts are collective efforts in collaboration with DOE, Public Works, the honorable representatives of Itua and Tualauta counties, the principal – Mr. Sagapolutele Vanu Moe, the school administration, faculty and staff, the parents and students of Nu'uuli Vocational Technical High School,” said Governor Togiola. “We have come together to finalize what was started almost a year and a half ago. It is important that we do this because Nu'uuli Vo-Tech has been neglected for so many years. And we will never allow this to happen, again.”

Governor Togiola said, in seeing the major improvements to the school campus, it is imperative that emphasis is placed on the importance of the specialized curriculum that is being taught at Nu'uuli Vo-Tech.

“This curriculum provides you, students, the practical activities related to a specific trade or occupation. You are developing expertise with your participation here. And as you become a learner today, upon completion, American Samoa needs you in the future,” said Governor Togiola. “We dedicated the two story classroom building at the beginning of the school year, and now we officially open this new shop building for you students. We provide these tools, such as this building, for your education, along with hammers, pliers, wrenches, and other tools that are put in your hands by your principal and teachers.”

Governor Togiola told the students that they have an obligation to learn and receive an education and take advantage of the opportunity that is offered to them.

“These tools are only as good as you are. If you don’t use them wisely, or you don’t use them to their maximum benefit, then they aren’t any good. They are only as good as you are. So take advantage of this education. Take advantage of the opportunities to learn. And don’t ever stop learning,” said Governor Togiola.

The new shop building – 42 feet wide by 112 feet long-- was built at a cost of \$468,000 and the two story classroom building, dedicated in August, cost \$1,285,000. The contractor was RM Construction.

## Gov. Togiola gives keynote address at COHORT graduation

**(UTULEI)** – Governor Togiola Tulafono presented the keynote address at the graduation ceremony for 31 teachers of the University of Hawai'i Elementary and Early Childhood Education Cohort Program at H. Rex Lee Auditorium (Fale Laumei) in Utulei on Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. Following is the complete Cohort Graduation Fall 2007 address by Gov. Togiola Tulafono:

"You have selected 'On A Journey' as your graduation theme and what comes to mind is that you have traveled from one place and have arrived at another and then continue on in search of the ultimate destination to utilize what you have passionately gathered, collected and packed throughout your journey.

We all know that the duties and responsibilities of a teacher is part of a long journey. Any time you travel you must thoroughly plan and prepare. So, a journey connotes coming from somewhere and traveling through and arriving somewhere else. A journey requires action.

For a journey to occur, it requires change. And it requires change in transition to something new. I commend you for embarking on a journey and will not stop here. You are moving forward and as you gain more experience, you are moving somewhere that requires your commitment to change. I commend you for your love and passion for teaching. Thank you for the strength that you give to the commitment to be a qualified and effective teacher. Hillary Rodham Clinton recently said: "Change is just a word without the strength and experience to make it happen."

I recall two and a half years ago at another Cohort commencement ceremony, that a pay increase for teachers should be determined by their performance in the classroom. When you are an effective teacher, there is success in the classroom.

In January we are going to submit a bill that will set a salary matrix for teachers, and the bulk of it is that your entitlement is based on how effective you are in the classroom. I hope that it will pass in the Fono, so that I can sign it into law.

It has taken us awhile to find an effective methodology. We will now work with the Department of Education to iron out the language, tweak the formula and come up with the plan. Teachers deserve it. After all, this is an annual journey that we make.

We owe a word of thanks to you today, and all your Cohorts that traveled this path before you and blazed the trail, and all Cohorts that will follow. Cohort directors, coordinators and supervisors can devise a great plan. They can have all the qualified instructors. But, without you, all that means nothing.

We all say thank you for the great success of this program that graduate teachers for the classrooms of American Samoa every year.

Thank you to the University of Hawaii, American Samoa Community College and DOE for the collaboration that has enabled us to have the most effective teacher training program so far.

We also look forward to the success of our four-year education program at ASCC. I hope that by the year 2011, we would have about 90 percent of the teachers in all of our classrooms with the minimum of a college degree and teacher certification. That is our hope. That is our goal. And that is the goal of our **journey**. A journey we must all take together.

We are determined. We are patient. We know what we need to know. It takes time and it has taken time to get where we are on this journey. I recall Moses taking 40 years to guide the Israelites only 11 miles. All of this is meant for us to prepare for the time ahead. You are the trainers of the best people that will take over our government, our villages, our churches, our island home.

It is my earnest prayer that you will teach the truth. I say this with the commitment in my heart. Teaching the truth means you have to prepare yourself. Know what you are teaching. Know what you are passing on to the next generation. Be a part of sharing this true knowledge. We are not doing it just to get by day to day.

Have a good journey. Stop once in awhile to smell the flowers. Be honest to yourself and your profession. In those hopeful words of Bill Bradley: "Never give up and never, never sell out."

Happy graduation and congratulations to all of you Cohorts. May you always be God's instruments in teaching the future generation of American Samoa.

Thank you for being part of teaching. I wish you all the best. Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year."

